



## TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKET SNAPSHOT: CANADA

### Key Statistics

Population	33,759,742 (July 2010 est.)
GDP	\$1.335 trillion (2010 est.)
Per capita GDP	\$39,600 (2010 est.)
Main lines	18.251 million (2009)
Teledensity	55% (2008)
Mobile subscribers	22,092,500 (2008)
Mobile penetration	66% (2008)
Internet users	29.96 million (2009)
Internet penetration	75% (2008)
Broadband subscribers	9,842,303 (2008)
Spending on Telecom equipment and services	\$38,077.5 million (2010)
U.S. equipment exports to market	\$3,725,400,549 (2010)

Sources: CIA World Factbook, USITC, and Worldwide Black Book.

### Market Overview

The Canadian Radio, Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), an independent federal agency, is the national telecommunications regulator. Charged with regulating and supervising telecommunications and broadcasting services in the country, the CRTC has a quasi-judicial status. The CRTC is required to present annual reports every five years on the status of competition in the industry and on the deployment and accessibility of advanced telecommunications infrastructure and services in both urban and rural areas nationwide.

Industry Canada, a government agency led by the Minister of Industry, is responsible for telecommunications policy and international submarine cable licensing under the Telecommunications Act. It is also responsible for spectrum policy and management under the Radiocommunication Act.

The country's Telecommunications Act came into effect on October 25, 1993. It served to unite and modernize laws concerning the sector, some of which had not been modified since 1908. The Act was modified in May 1998. Under the amendments, the CRTC was granted the authority to introduce a licensing regime for international services, as well as the responsibility for numbering administration. In addition, the CRTC was authorized to enlist telecommunications service providers' financial support for a universal service fund.

### Telecom Trade Agreements

#### WTO

Canada has made commitments covering both basic and value-added telecom services in the World Trade Organization (WTO). For a list of the country's commitments, go to

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/serv\\_e/telecom\\_e/telecom\\_commit\\_exempt\\_list\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/telecom_e/telecom_commit_exempt_list_e.htm). Canada is a signatory to the WTO Information Technology Agreement, which completely eliminates duties on a variety of info-communications technology products by January 2000.

## *NAFTA*

Canada is a signatory to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Chapter 13 deals with telecom services. For more information on NAFTA or to view the text of the agreement, see the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on-line at [http://www.ustr.gov/Trade\\_Agreements/Regional/NAFTA/Section\\_Index.html](http://www.ustr.gov/Trade_Agreements/Regional/NAFTA/Section_Index.html), or the Department of Commerce's Trade Compliance Center (TCC) on-line at <http://www.tcc.mac.doc.gov>.

## **Leading Service Providers**

Aliant

<http://www.aliant.ca>

Bell Canada

<http://www.bce.ca>

Bell Mobility

<http://www.bell.ca>

Manitoba Telecom Services

<http://www.mts.ca>

Rogers Wireless

<http://www.rogers.com>

TELUS Mobility

<http://www.telusmobility.ca>

## **Contacts**

### *Regulatory*

Canadian Radio, Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)

<http://www.crtc.gc.ca>

Industry Canada

<http://www.ic.gc.ca>

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